

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /042 W

-----280512 068727 /11

R 280401Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9630

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMCONGEN MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJ: RTG-LAO CIVAIR TALKS

REF: BANGKOK 4331

1. DR. SRISOOK OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN CIVAIR PORTION OF RTG-LAO TALKS FEB 15-17, ON FEB 25 FLESHED OUT DETAILS PROVIDED REFTEL.

2. ACCORDING SRISOOK, AD REFERENDUM EXCHANGE OF ROUTE RIGHTS BY GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT MEAN MUCH SINCE SERVICES WILL NOT BE INITIATED UNTIL (1) AGREEMENT IS RATIFIED, AND (2) AIRLINES REACH AGREEMENT ON OPERATING DETAILS, WHICH HE CONSIDERS UNLIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE. STICKING POINT FOR THAI AIRWAYS CORP. (TAC) IS ADAMANT LAO DEMAND THAT TAC DESIGNATE LAO AVIATION AS GENERAL SALES AGENT IN VIENTIANE (WITH LAO TO DESIGNATE TAC AS GSA IN BANGKOK). THAI DOUBT LAO WILL PERMIT THEM TO REPATRIATE MONEY FROM SALES BY GSA IN VIENTIANE AND WILL NOT RATIFY AGREEMENT WHICH DOES NOT GUARANTEE TRANSFER OF FUNDS; DELEGATIONS PUSHED THIS PROBLEM UNDER RUG FOR RESOLUTION BY AIRLINES. AGREEMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, PERMIT LAO TO USE AN-24 AIRCRAFT FLOWN BY SOVIET
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PILOTS, IF AND WHEN SERVICE IS INITIATED. THAI, OF COURSE, CONTINUE HAVE MONOPOLY ON LUCRATIVE BANGKOK-VIENTIANE SECTOR, OPERATING BANGKOK/UDORN BY AIR AND UDORN/VIENTIANE BY SURFACE, SO THEY DO NOT AT THIS TIME FEEL PRESSURED TO RATIFY AGREEMENT.

3. ON QUESTION OF OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS, WHICH SRISOOK INSISTS

LAO AND VIETNAMESE APPROVED FOR THAI INTERNATIONAL IN EXCHANGES OF NOTES IN JULY 1976, DISCUSSION CENTERED ON DETAILS OF HANDOVER PROCEDURES AND OTHER TECHNICAL MATTERS. RADIO OF THAILAND OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MATTERS HERE WAS MEMBER OF DELEGATION AND WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH LAO OPPOSITE NUMBER TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES. SRISOOK BELIEVES THAILAND, LAOS, VIETNAM, AND HONG KONG WILL WORK OUT PROCEDURES ON BILATERAL BASIS ORIGINALLY, THEN MEET IN MULTILATERAL FORUM TO FINE TUNE DETAILS.

4. THAI DID NOT RAISE ISSUE OF OVERFLIGHT CHARGES, SRISOOK SAID, ADDING THAT RTG PREFERS TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF UPCOMING IATA INITIATIVE IN HANOI. RTG WILL MAP STRATEGY FOR APPROACH TO VIETNAM ON OVERFLIGHT PROCEDURES AFTER TALKING WITH IATA OFFICIALS ON RETURN FROM HANOI.
WHITEHOUSE

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